

REMARKS

Amendments

Claims 1 and 25 are amended to delete formulas 3-1 and 3-2. Claim 12 is cancelled as being redundant with claim 11. Claim 24 is cancelled for purposes of further prosecution. Finally, claim 33 is amended to depend from claim 25 (Compare claim 11).

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. These amendments clearly place the application in condition for allowance, or at the very least reduce the number of issues for appeal.

Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action specifically refers to Example 14 of US '686. This Example refers to a solution containing the copolymer identified as "P(AN/NB-F-OMOM/MAA/tBMA). The monomer units of this copolymer are acrylonitrile (AN), methoxymethylnorbornylene-hexafluoroalcohol ether adduct (NB-F-OMOM), methacrylic acid (MAA), and tertiary-butyl methacrylate (tBMA). See also Example 12. As noted in the Office Action, the structure of the monomer MB-F-OMOM is illustrated in column 15. In this monomer unit the group X, a substituent on the norbornyl ring structure, is $-\text{OCH}_2\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{OCH}_2\text{OCH}_3$. Other such substituents disclosed at columns 15-16 are CH_2OH , $\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{OH}$, $\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{OCH}_2\text{OCH}_3$, OCOCH_3 , OH , and $\text{OCH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{OH}$. None of these monomer units used in the copolymer of Example 14 of US '686, nor those illustrated at columns 15-16, suggest a recurring unit in accordance with formula (1) as recited in Applicants' claim 1. See also the copolymers of Examples 10, 11, and 13.

Trefonas et al. (US '501) is relied on in the Office Action for its disclosure of a base as an optional additive for the resist disclosed therein. Specifically, reference is made to this disclosure at column 12, lines 18-21. However, US '501 provides no suggestion or motivation which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the polymers or monomers described in US '686 in such a manner as to arrive an embodiment in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention.

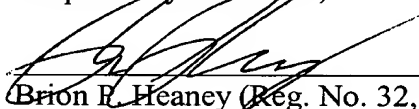
Fedynyshyn (US '712) is cited in the Office Action with regards to its disclosures in Examples 2, 5, and 9. The polymers of Example 2 exhibit cyclopentylene groups which are

substituted by $-\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{-OH}$ or $-\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{-OP}$, where P represents an unspecified protective group. See also the polymers in Examples 5 and 9 of US '712 which exhibit cyclopentylene groups which are substituted by $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{-OH}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{-O}$, or $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{-OP}$. These polymers do not suggest a polymer having recurring units in accordance with formula (1) as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

In view of the above remarks it is respectfully submitted that US '686, US '501 and/or US '712 taken alone or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' claimed invention. Withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



Brion E. Heaney (Reg. No. 32,542)

Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P. C.

2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400

Arlington, Virginia 22201

(703) 243-6333

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